CITY OF SAN ANTONIO San Antonio Fire Department MEMORANDUM

TO:

SAFD and DSD Associates

FROM:

Abel Flores, Fire Marshal

DATE:

December 8, 2005

FILE:

Code Interpretation Manual

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: CI2006-006

TITLE:

Fire Department Vehicle Access for Sprinklered Buildings

CODE EDITION:

2003 International Fire Code (IFC) as amended by COSA

SECTION:

503.1.1, Exception 1

PURPOSE:

To clarify when and how much allowable increase for fire department vehicle access road hose lay distance is permitted for buildings protected with an automatic fire sprinkler system.

QUESTION 1:

What is the allowable increase in the fire department vehicle access road hose lay distance for buildings equipped throughout with an approved automatic fire sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1, 903.3.1.2 or 903.3.1.3?

ANSWER 1:

In most cases, the fire lane hose lay distance is permitted to be increased from 150 feet as specified in Section 503.1.1 to 200 feet if the building is sprinklered per Exception 1 to Section 503.1.1.

QUESTION 2:

Are there any types of buildings or occupancies that would not be granted this increase in hose lay distance? If so, what are they?

ANSWER 2:

Yes. The following occupancies and building types would not be granted this increase: Group H Occupancies; Group I Occupancies; Buildings with occupancies having High-Piled Combustible Storage; High-Rise Buildings.

Abel Flores, Fire Marshal San Antonio Fire Department